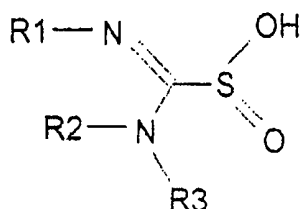


formamidinesulphinic acid derivatives of formula (I), the inorganic salts thereof, and the organic salts thereof:



(I)

in which:

R1, R2, and R3, which are identical or different, are each chosen from hydrogen; amino groups; C₁ to C₈ aminoiminoalkyl groups; imino groups; C₁ to C₈ aminoalkyl groups; guanidino groups; C₁ to C₈ linear alkyl groups; C₁ to C₈ branched alkyl groups; C₂ to C₈ linear alkenyl groups; C₂ to C₈ branched alkenyl groups; C₇ to C₂₀ aralkyl groups; and C₃ to C₂₀ rings, optionally chosen from aromatic rings, and optionally comprising at least one heteroatom chosen from halogens, nitrogen, oxygen, and sulphur; and


wherein said R1, R2, and R3 are optionally substituted;

with the proviso that R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are not simultaneously equal to

hydrogen

14. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 11, wherein said at least one reducing agent is chosen from:

- imino(methylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
- imino(propylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
- (dimethylamino)iminomethanesulphinic acid;

- 
- (diethylamino)iminomethanesulphinic acid;
 - (ethylamino)(ethylimino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - (methylamino)(methylimino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - (butylamino)(butylimino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - (phenylamino)(phenylimino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - (phenylmethylamino)(phenylmethylimino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - (carboxymethylamino)iminomethanesulphinic acid;
 - (2-carboxyethylamino)iminomethanesulphinic acid;
 - (3-carboxypropylamino)iminomethanesulphinic acid;
 - (5-carboxypentylamino)iminomethanesulphinic acid;
 - (hydroxymethylamino)iminomethanesulphinic acid;
 - (2-aminoethylamino)iminomethanesulphinic acid;
 - imino(sulphonylmethylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - imino(2-sulphonylpropylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - imino(2-phosphonylmethylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - imino(phenylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - imino(4-methylphenylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - imino(4-hydroxyphenylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - imino(4-methoxyphenylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - imino(2-chlorophenylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - imino(4-methyl-2-pyridylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - imino(6-methyl-2-pyridylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - imino(5-methyl-2-pyridylamino)methanesulphinic acid;



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- C2
- imino(2-quinolylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - imino(3-quinolylamino)methanesulphinic acid;
 - (methylimino)-2-pyridylaminomethanesulphinic acid;
 - (methylimino)[(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2-pyridyl)amino]methanesulphinic acid; and
 - [(aminoiminomethyl)amino]iminomethanesulphinic acid.

C3

100. (Twice Amended) A compound of the formula:
(carboxymethylamino)iminomethanesulphinic acid.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 11 - 100 are now pending in this application. Claims 43-99 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 11-42 and 100 have been examined. Claims 11, 14, and 100 have been amended.

The Examiner examined claims 11-19 "as compound claims because claims have no carrier." Office Action at p. 2. Independent claim 11 explicitly recites a "reducing composition." By its clear language, claim 11 should be examined as a composition claim. Moreover, claim 11 is open-ended based on the "comprising" language. Thus, claim 11 encompasses those compositions optionally comprising a carrier. Applicants respectfully request clarification as Applicants are unaware of any statute or case law that calls for interpreting a claim contrary to its explicit language.

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